



## **tall cotton-grass**

*Eriophorum angustifolium*

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering plants

### **Features**

Tall cotton-grass is a perennial herb that grows in clumps or as a solitary plant up to three feet tall. The lower leaves are folded, up to one-third of an inch wide, and 1 1/2 feet or more long. The upper leaves are up to one-fifth of an inch wide. The flowers are small. The fruits are the most showy part of the plant. They have numerous white hairs up to 1 1/2 inches long and look like balls of cotton from a distance.

### **Natural History**

Tall cotton-grass grows in wet prairies, wet meadows, and fens. The fruits are mature in May and June. It has a circumboreal distribution, which means it is found in wetlands all around the northern latitudes of North America, Europe, and Asia. It is infrequent in the north half of the state and rare in the south.

### **Habitats**

wet prairies and fens

### **Iowa Status**

uncommon; native

### **Iowa Range**

northern two-thirds of Iowa

### **Bibliography**

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.